

The Commons

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Settlement Point of View.

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Chicago, September 1901.

A Prayer.

By Theodore Parker.

"Give me, Lord, eyes to behold the truth;
A seeing sense that knows the eternal right;
A heart with pity filled, and gentlest ruth.
A manly faith that makes all darkness light.
Give me the power to labor for mankind:
Make me the mouth of such as cannot speak;
Eyes let me be to groping men and blind;
A conscience to the base, and to the weak
Let me be hands and feet."

The Settlement in the Small City

N. H. Weeks Warden, Roadside House,
Des Moines.

With the name "Social Settlement" we mistakenly identify the idea of the "slums" of a great city. The settlement is thought of as an institution existing in the midst of such a district for the purpose of working some improvement in the surrounding conditions.

While this idea of the settlement fits the facts in some cases, to limit the scope of settlement activity to such a field and such a purpose is to give it far too narrow bounds. The social movement has already proven itself potent to remedy existing wrongs and to reclaim neglected fields. It has a further mission in occupying and holding fields now becoming neglected and in checking wrongs now gaining strength.

It is on this side of its work that the settlement may exert its strongest influence for good in the small city. Conditions are not yet at the point which the larger city presents. The line of separation between the districts where dwell the rich and the poor is not so clearly drawn. The social distinctions which divide class from class are not so strongly established. The various privileges of education and culture are more fully shared by all. The church has a relation more or less close with the laborer. There is not yet a complete division of society into two widely separated classes.

But one who studies the tendencies of present city growth cannot fail to discover that the trend is toward a more marked division. The poorer congregate in one section while those

who can select their home in another. Social lines are established more widely separating district from district. Privilege and opportunity become more and more the possession of the one class while denied the other. The movement of the church is away from the needier districts and its influence with the laborer is lost. Unchecked, this tendency moves onward until the city awakes to find itself confronted with the problem of a slum district.

In such a city the settlement comes to meet in advance these forces of deterioration. It seeks to exercise an efficient preventive force that shall render remedial measures unnecessary. It aims to arrest these tendencies before they become powerful. It stands for a common meeting place where rich and poor may come together and in the meeting may strengthen the bonds of sympathy and brotherhood. It stands for the sharing of privilege and opportunity, to make education and culture a possession common to all. It stands for a practical teaching of the gospel of love and a living witness to the power of love as a ruling force in all the relations of life.

That amid the relations of life gradually assuming fixed forms there is need for such an influence must be apparent. Equally apparent must be the wisdom of exerting that influence early, before this separation of class from class becomes hard and fast, rather than waiting until the evil becomes so great as to demand a remedy. In many fields it is too late to avert the evil, but in the small city there is still opportunity to meet the difficulty in advance and to a degree prevent the conditions toward which it is tending. In this work of prevention the settlement finds a most hopeful field for its endeavor toward maintaining right relations between man and man.

What Rev. George L. McNutt Sees while Exploring the Working-World as a Day Laborer.

That which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and our hands have handled, of the World of Life, that declare we unto you. I say "we" because if I have any message out of the depths

of the world's life, I owe it to the loyalty and the love of a wife and two boys, who have shared with me the privation and the privilege of that wider touch with the world, so often known only to God, the saloon-keeper, the political boss and the undertaker. I put first among the things which I have seen that which to my mind is greatest.

A HEALTH-GIVING COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

I have seen a man greater than Carnegie. In St. Paul a leading physician of the city has given up a lucrative practice in order to serve the people as health commissioner. He is actually satisfied, in the prime of life, to miss a few thousand dollars in order to give, though the office in which he is czar,—(and there is no politics)—the nobodies, and the everybodies these simple things; a playground, public baths and a municipal restaurant. Through his own initiative and with his own money in great part, he has created an island-park of seventy acres, where the law of kindness rules, where the birds nest in the trees, and the boys swim, but don't swear. There used to be fifteen boys drowned every year. Last year and this, not a life was lost, thanks to this man's watchfulness.

A MANUFACTURER'S SEARCH FOR SALOON-PROOF HANDS.

I have seen in a small city of Indiana a manufacturer with a curious dilemma on his hands. The factory is one of the finest of its kind in the world. Located in the woods, scientifically equipped, he was ready to do business. Then came trouble. Of every ten men that he brought to the city the saloons get and destroy seven out of ten; "and" said he, not so much in bitterness as amazement, for he is an active churchman, "I find that the only people who know the families of my men socially are the saloon people and their patrons. The churches do not seem to know them." The man actually employed a traveling man to search the country for two hundred men guaranteed to be proof against the seductions of the saloon.

CONTRAST IN CHURCHES FIFTY MILES APART.

I have seen in a city of fifteen hundred, with four hundred men in a factory, on a bright Sunday 120 people at all the churches in the morning, 115 at night at a union service, fifteen men present from the mills, this considered an unusual attendance. On the following Sunday, just fifty miles away in the same state, I found at the famous Hopewell country church, four hundred people. They are old-fashioned enough there to have babies, and to bring them to church. Hypnotized with Jersey milk and

clover, nursed by mothers who are not starved nor overworked, those babies behaved beautifully. I saw fifty young men when the service was over about the door. "I don't know," said the preacher, "anybody who doesn't belong to the church." Why is the old-time religion so regnant at Hopewell, and so faltering fifty miles away?

COMRADESHIP VERSUS CONVENTIONALITY.

I have seen in an Illinois city a church built in the suburbs near to a disorderly mining district. They called the church a mission. No one came near it. The miners rejected the gospel by proxy. Then came a little woman, of foreign birth, seeing the isolation and the misery of the miners, she went among them as a comrade for seven months, completely transforming the community.

DEFORMING THE "REFORMED."

I have seen thirteen hundred boys, rated in Illinois as criminals, restrained in its reformatory. I could not detect more than one criminal face in five. The superintendent assures me that if it were not for the fact that those boys go from the state's reformatory into a social deformatory, that three out of four would become useful citizens.

WHAT COMES OF NEGLECT TO PROVIDE FOR HUMAN NECESSITIES.

I have seen my boy constrained by physical distress to break a law of New York city regarding decency. The policeman who shook him, and threatened to arrest him, said to the boy's plea of necessity, "Don't you see seven saloons here inside of a block?" Queer business that, for society's uniformed usher to be directing a boy to a saloon! Queerer still is the insanity of society's neglect.

I have seen my wife, while we were living in a tenement house of Greater New York, where there is but one bath tub to eight hundred people, longing for the luxury of other days, go out in search of a place in Brooklyn, where a woman could wash and be clean. She searched, but in vain. Turning into the public health department she asked: "Isn't there some place in Brooklyn, some provision for bathing?" This was the middle of April. "Oh yes," said the officer in charge, "we have a system of public baths. They will be opened the first of July."

DENYING THE CHILD'S RIGHT TO PLAY.

Our five-year-old philosopher,—Pat's his name for short,—has a beautiful creed,—or, rather did have, for he is one Presbyterian that has revised his creed. I would say to him, "Pattie, do you love mamma and papa, and your brother?" "Yes," and then with exquisite beauty he would add, "I love everybody." That was

when he was familiar with birds and trees and animals. After a short experience in New York the philosopher revised his creed. He found a hole where a flagstone was gone, laid his little heart down on the face of old Mother Earth, dug and played, happy by the hour. Then came a man with authority. With a volley of oaths he chased Pattle and his mates in misery away from his old mother and stamped the hole full of ashes and stones. Then Pat revised his creed. The attitude of society toward the child is that of the woman who used to say to the girl, "Go see what John's doing and tell him not to do it."

I have seen a beautiful pile of sand. The children were longing to get their hands in it and be creators, as a child has a right to be. The contractor had posted the elegant sign "kids, keep off." I wonder if his soul was as large as a gain of sand.

"ALL TANGLED UP."

I have seen a man who was so disagreeable we wished the conductor would put him off the car. Of course he was drunk. When he joined me, to help find a depot, he was an unwelcome intruder. He said he was "all tangled up." He was an ordinary, unskilled, day laborer. Of course, I thought I knew why he was tangled up. In the loneliness of the street at night he said, with unspeakable pathos, "boys, I've just buried my little three-year-old playmate. I can't go home, I'm all tangled up." Walking across the city with us, hungry for help and we thought him drunk! I never felt meaner in my life.

WHO TAKE ME AT MY FACE VALUE.

It has been an absolute necessity to wear coarse work clothes, in season and out of season, Monday and Sunday, too. There are four persons that I find take me at my face value. My dog, Pat the philosopher, the saloon and the social settlements.

FARMERS LEARNING THE GOSPEL OF CO-OPERATION.

I have seen on an Iowa farm a man in overalls and coarse shirt and slouch hat, sitting on a mowing machine. This man is the president of an association of farmers that last year transacted a business of seven hundred thousand dollars. They have learned the Gospel of Co-operation. I can't tell the story here, but the student of social movements can well keep an eye on Rockwell, Iowa, where the Irish and Germans have learned to work together, where they have a rattling Fourth of July celebration and nobody drunk.

AGE LIMIT OF EMPLOYMENT—THE INDUSTRIAL DEAD LINE.

I have seen a fellow workman look at me quizzically, "Aren't you over forty years old? Well, I thought they didn't employ anybody over forty." I dodged the question, but I caught a glimpse of what it means to pass the industrial dead line at forty, or in the railroad service at thirty-five, and what it must mean when some new marvelous invention displaces the skilled worker whose capital is his skill. While the world cheers the march of progress, one of the brigades in the world's army of workers stacks the old tools and marches out into the wide world, "too old" to work, though in the prime of life, beyond the dead line.

SOCIAL REDEMPTION OF DOMESTIC SERVICE.

I have seen in the city of Wilmerding, Pa., a most delightful expression of social democracy. I have seen a girl, a piece-worker in a factory, come under protest, to do housework, vowing she wouldn't stay, only just as long as the factory was closed. She was illiterate, not peculiarly companionable, but the strange woman of the house didn't call herself "mistress" nor the girl "servant," nor "maid." That woman is actually queer enough to regard any other woman as her sister. She treated this girl just as if she had been stolen from her own home and deprived of culture, consideration, love. In such an atmosphere the girl's aborted heart began to open. She grew happy; wouldn't go back to the factory; makes fun of the other girls who work there. In time there grew up a club of twenty-five girls around her, who met in this house. The change in that girl's face when I saw her six months afterwards was like the change when a bud in the clasp of winter has opened into an American Beauty rose. Readers of the Commons will not be surprised when they learn that this miracle of grace was in the home of those two genuine social democrats, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Gavitt.

A Good Story with a Settlement Application.

In the Independent for August 8th, Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, closes an article on "The College Woman and Christianity," with the following good story and her incisive application of it:

"Long ago a brilliant woman came to call at Hull House and flatly announced that she did not believe in settlements. She said that they were all nonsense, and that this conviction had come to her at the tender age of four.

She related an experience as follows: She was one day playing in her mother's garden when she discovered a large and disagreeable toad, which frightened her so badly that she hastily ran to the other end of the garden. Before she had recovered from her first fright she there discovered a very small toad which gradually appealed to her pity, it seemed so lonesome and forlorn by itself. With much fear and trembling, borne up only by the desire to be good to it, she finally poked the little toad into the neighborhood of the big toad, when to her horror and surprise the big toad opened his mouth and swallowed the little toad. She said that never after that had she believed in displacing people and putting them into the company which they did not seek, and into which they did not naturally go. It was in vain that I expounded, that the little toad might easily represent the settlement—a group of insignificant young people, only too anxious to be swallowed by the larger toad, representing a large group of working people—that if we could be swallowed and digested and contribute anything to the strength or comeliness of the larger group, then, indeed, the settlement would be a success. She was skeptical of my interpretation, and said so quite clearly. But it is a good story and perhaps I may be permitted to give it another interpretation, which, however, may be no more successful. Let us say that the little toad represents numbers of college women, the Intercollegiate Alumnae Association, if you please. The association has been hopping about at its own end of the garden with a certain sense of aimlessness and without being very clear as to why it was put there. The story may show that the usefulness and meaning of the association can be realized only as its activities are lost in those of the rest of the community.

To give up the consciousness of one's own identity and achievements is perhaps the hardest demand which life can make upon us, but certainly those who call themselves Christian, who are striving to be of use in this adaptation of Christianity to social needs, should be ready to meet this demand.

In all crises the college woman who undertakes this task must cling to the Christian training as over against the college training. In this new task of Christian adjustment she must observe accurately without laboratory aids, must reflect without the guidance of a professor, and at last act coherently upon her observation and conclusion. In college she has grown accustomed to working upon a motive

power which had been predetermined when she resolved in the beginning to take the course, but in this new task she must be able to constantly extract from the situation itself a motive power to feed her energy and to give her zeal. Jesus alone of all great teachers made a masterly combination of method, aim and source of motive power. He alone taught that out of broken human nature continually springs the great moral power which perpetually recreates the world. The mystic life of the common people may at last touch the learning of the college woman and fuse into one her method and her aim. She will then for the first time be equipped to devote her powers to the adaptation of Christianity to social needs, and to fulfil her obligations."

Notes of Social Progress.

A SOCIOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT IN A GREAT INDUSTRY.

The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company has recently established a Sociological Department, having for its object the betterment of social, educational and industrial conditions among its employes at its numerous camps and works. The Company employs about 15,000 men, the foreign element of whom is composed of Italians, Austrians, Russians, Germans and Mexicans. The Department purposes establishing night schools, kindergartens, cooking schools, stereopticon and musical entertainments. It is also intended to interest the men in some entertainments of local talent.

A TRAVELING LECTURESHIP.

The League for Social Service announces that Dr. William H. Tolman, the director of its Industrial Betterment Department, "will visit the leading Western and Southern cities on a lecture tour, discussing what has been done to improve the condition of the employed. Dr. Tolman has had exceptional opportunities for studying these problems at original sources, having come in personal contact with some of the most advanced Captains of Industry in this country and in Europe.

"These studies are richly illustrated by the photographs taken especially for him, thus thereby presenting actual conditions and successful results. In addition he is able, as a Social Engineer, to advise and suggest working details for any employer desirous of beginning some form of Industrial Betterment.

"The topics to be discussed are—Factory Villages and Industrial Communities. Factory

Lunches and Dining Rooms, Play Grounds and Athletic Societies. Workingman's Clubs and Club Rooms. Recreation. Educational Work of All Kinds, Houses and Cottages. Adornment of Factory Grounds and Buildings. Libraries and Their Use in Factories. How to Promote Library Efficiency. Systems of Cash Awards. More Efficient Fire Protection by Co-operation. Publications for Employees. Point of Personal Contact. Pension Systems. Mutual Benefit and Sick Fund Societies. Social Secretaries. Labor Secretaries. Prosperity Sharing.

"While these studies are particularly valuable to associations of business men, they are also of interest to women's clubs, educational associations, young people's societies and drawing-room meetings.

"Requests and inquiries regarding this lecture tour should be sent in as soon as possible to Dr. William H. Tolman, 287 Fourth Ave., New York City."

All who know, as we do, his capacity and the opportunity he has had for study and observation, will join us in lending all help to make this tour not only worth Dr. Tolman's while, but helpful in the formation of right relations at the rapidly developing centers of industry in the West and South.

Chicago's First Municipal Play Ground Opened.

The Special Park Commission announced with justifiable pride the first actual achievement resulting from its wisely deliberate and patiently prosecuted preliminary efforts. While a crowd of happy children danced around the May-pole, lead by one of the residents of Hull House, to the inspiring music of a band and cheered by the people, the chairman of the Commission presented to the city its first municipal playground, located on the south side at Twenty-fourth Street and Wabash Avenue. May it be the precursor of many another!

Park Areas in Thirty-Eight Cities Compared.

Prof. Charles Zueblin, of the University of Chicago, makes the following decisive contribution to the discussion of the question whether Chicago is adequately provided with park privileges in proportion to its population. His comparison of the provision made in thirty-eight American cities for their people will prove helpful to settlement workers and others engaged

in furthering social progress. Prof. Zueblin is one of the most efficient members of the Small Parks Commission of Chicago, and by means of his University Extension lectures, with stereopticon illustrations has done much to promote the betterment of such civic conditions throughout the land. His published statement is as follows:

Chicago, July 29.—[Editor of The Tribune.]—Apropos of the discussion of Chicago's park system and the frequent contention for Chicago's superiority, here are the statistics for thirty-eight cities having 100,000 or more population:

POPULATION PER ACRE OF PARKS.

Los Angeles....	27.5	Philadelphia ..	319.8
Washington ...	77.5	Providence ...	322.9
Kansas City ...	92.0	Buffalo	343.4
New Haven....	98.2	Pittsburg	365.4
Columbus	113.3	New Orleans..	371.5
Minneapolis ...	130.5	Allegheny ...	371.7
Indianapolis ...	133.5	Syracuse	435.2
Louisville	149.4	Baltimore	446.6
Toledo	169.9	New York.....	497.4
Omaha	172.9	Cincinnati ...	604.8
Boston	214.2	Milwaukee ...	655.8
Denver	234.4	Newark	692.3
Rochester	248.4	Chicago	789.4
San Francisco..	250.0	Scranton	1,049.9
St. Louis.....	264.2	Paterson	1,090.7
Detroit	270.5	Fall River....	1,174.0
St. Paul.....	272.9	St. Joseph....	3,614.0
Cleveland	287.8	Memphis	7,676.3
Worcester	304.5	Jersey City....	11,466.25

If you include Chicago's boulevards it increases the acreage about 50 per cent and gives us 530 people to the acre, so that we rank twenty-ninth instead of thirty-second. This would be perfectly legitimate if we knew that all other cities included their boulevard systems, but even then the percentage is not flattering. It is fair, I think, to say that Chicago is the most poorly equipped of all the large cities of the country. It is like Mark Twain's German singer—living on its reputation of twenty years ago.

CHARLES ZUEBLIN.

The Regeneration of a Chicago Street.

A little group of idealists interested in municipal art in Chicago have recently demonstrated the practicability of their ideals in a way which has evidently made a public impression. Around the corner from Hull House, and with the co-operation of its residents and neighbors, the street on which some of the settlement buildings face has been wonderfully transformed by

the combined efforts described in the following editorial in the Chicago Tribune:

A STREET'S NEW FACE.

"An entirely new front has been put upon that block of Ewing street which extends from Halsted street to Blue Island avenue, and the transformation constitutes one of the most interesting and satisfactory events of this season's efforts for a better appearing city. There are on this block a small chapel, two or three flat buildings, and a co-operative clubhouse. It is chiefly occupied, however, by wooden cottages, which have survived from a past day and have tiny yards in front. On the whole, the street is rather typical of its general vicinity than otherwise, in its availability for decoration. In the early spring a movement was started to see what could be done through proper expert direction, concerted effort on the part of residents, and the expenditure of a small sum of money to introduce the beauty of vegetation into this street. A committee set to work on the matter, the people came together to arrange, and \$200 was raised, most of it locally, to pay for materials and labor. As the summer opened this block became conspicuous in its neighborhood for its protected strips of grass between curb and sidewalk, its seventy young elms and poplars, its 800 geraniums and petunias in yards and window boxes, its barberry, hydrangea and spirea plants, its Virginia creeper and other vines, and above all by the solicitous care bestowed upon these by the residents. During the dry weather water has been carried in buckets and tin cans to keep things green, few trees or plants have died, and the block is today an assuring example of what can be done by united effort toward giving a common, dingy street an aspect of taste, coolness and interest. Every block in the crowded parts of the city would lend itself to similar improvement, and Chicago might thus bid adieu to the unrelieved barrenness of many of those areas. The example of Ewing street should be multiplied a thousand times next season."

LABOR NOTES.

The annual report of the Illinois State Factory Inspector urges that the legislature pass broader child labor laws. Seventy-five per cent of the children employed in the state are in the Chicago factories and mercantile establishments. In this city nearly 11,000 boys and girls are employed, all under 15 years of age. The garment trades, the metal and wood working industries and the stores have the largest

proportion of child laborers. It is recommended that the law be amended so as to include peddlers, venders, newsboys and telegraph messengers.

The Railway World reports that the Chicago & Northwestern road and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul are about to establish pension systems for employees similar to the system in operation for some time on the Pennsylvania road. The Pennsylvania system is, briefly, to pension officers and employees who have either reached the age of seventy years or who are physically disqualified after thirty years in the service of the company, at the age of sixty-five years. A pension department has been created, classifying the men in the service of the company. Henceforth no one will be taken into employment on this system, with a few exceptions, who has passed the age of thirty-five years. An exception is made in favor of professional men and those having special qualifications.

THE ABDICATION OF JUDGE LYNCH.

Lynch law and the increase of mob violence has suffered a telling blow in the decision recently delivered by the Supreme Court of Ohio. This court has held valid the state law providing for the recovery of damages by the heirs of the victim of public murder against any county within whose borders a lynching occurs. This simple but potent method engages in the defense of law and order all the property interests of a county. To make human life worth money is to place the highest practical safeguard upon its preservation under the present commercial regime.

The enactment of similar laws in every state, especially in those south of Mason and Dixon's line, will go far to remove one of the foulest blots that now disgraces our civilization.

We are in receipt of the second annual report of the National Boys' Club Association, whose headquarters are in the Besse building, Springfield, Mass., with branch offices in Philadelphia and New York.

Ten clubs are now included in the association, eight in New England, one each in Philadelphia and New York. The Association is carrying on a propaganda in favor of boys' clubs in the various cities of the country. The idea is to federate the various clubs together for mutual benefit, the local clubs being entirely under local management.

Tenement House Reform.

At the third monthly conference held under the auspices of the New York Charity Organization Society, the evils of pauperism and the possibility of their amelioration by religious and charitable organizations, was the general topic for consideration. Mr. de Forest, president of the society, discussed the topic "Can earners of low wages be comfortably housed in New York City tenement houses?" He said, "Society owes to the wage earners the duty to surround them with such conditions that, by their own effort they may secure for themselves a reasonable degree of comfort. In no other way can permanent improvement be secured, for such results depend primarily on self-interest and self help. There is a further duty to make conditions such that the wage earners may be able to maintain their health, and that disease and contagion shall not be spread abroad in the community."

In respect to the draft for a new law presented by the Tenement-House Commission, he says, "It aims to secure the proper sanitary construction of tenement-houses in the future, and to remedy so far as possible, existing evils by the improvement of such tenements as can be made habitable, and the destruction of those that are beyond repair. To secure enforcement of this law, provision is made therein for a separate tenement-house department in the city government. The object of this change is to secure the centralization of municipal duties relating to tenement-house construction and inspection as well as the centralization of responsibility. It is not intended that the new department shall usurp the functions of the Building Department, but that it shall have supervision of the sanitary features of the building particularly of light and ventilation, as well as the power to issue certificates that the buildings are built in compliance with the law before they can be occupied."

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From the Settlements.

The Road Side Settlement of Des Moines, Iowa.

The Roadside Settlement of Des Moines, Iowa, is now entering on its fifth year. It has had the usual vicissitudes and discouragements incident to all new work, but it has particularly felt the need of more resident workers, it having seldom had more than one or two at a time.

and sincerity. The burden coupled with ill health, however, proved too great, and she was obliged to take up work elsewhere. In the discouragement over losing her the Roadside board was tempted, at first, to place a "Hic Jacet" over that which was once an active though very small settlement, but fortunately, as in most things worth while, new workers have come to take the place of the old,



ROAD SIDE HOUSE, DES MOINES, IOWA.

The resignation of Miss Clara L. Adams, in May last, who was the head, and in fact, with the exception of the nurse of the day nursery, the sole resident, was a serious disappointment to those interested in the development of the work. That there is today so large a group of neighbors who feel, as some have expressed it, that "the Roadside is just like another home, only larger and more sociable", is due almost entirely to her untiring devotion, simplicity,

and there is promise now of larger development for the Roadside House.

Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Weeks, for several years residents at Chicago Commons, are to be head residents at Des Moines and there will be associated with them in the house Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Lynde and Mr. Lynde's mother, Mrs. M. F. Lynde. The former, now president of the settlement board, was also for two years associated with the work of Chicago

Commons, during one of which he was a resident. In addition to this family of five there will be the nurse from the day nursery and a resident nurse who will visit and care for the sick in the neighborhood.

Already there are some 120 members enrolled in clubs and classes including women, young men and children, while fully five hundred persons at least come in direct contact with settlement activities. There is the usual combination of social and educational features in the work. There are cooking and sewing classes. There is the penny provident savings bank, most largely patronized by the newsboys. In the women's club, music, history and art jostle in democratic fashion the more humble topics of how to make a good dinner out of uninviting scraps, the care of children or the proper management of a husband. But aside from all this the workers have always felt the most essential fact of the settlement to be the genuine spirit of comradeship found among all those who gather there, whether to give or receive. Not in vain will The Roadside have lived, if in the future as in the past, the residents aim to carry out the tribute to Homer, chosen as the motto for the house, "He was a friend to man,

And he lived in a house by the side of the road."

All the friends of Roadside House will be glad to share these excerpts from a private letter written by Miss Clara L. Adams, former Head-Resident: "I am glad to feel that I am not to be forgotten as a settlement worker, for I never intend to drop the work even if I am not connected with it in its institutional form. I shall conduct this coming year a domestic science school, teaching cooking, sewing, and various other lines of work. Associated with me will be two or three ladies who will follow out their own individual work, but together we will form a home life and do work among the people. I already have my hands full of work, having taken a class of sixty young men and women in Sunday School, who need faithful help as much as any class of people I ever worked among. I shall never forget dear old Roadside and the pleasant associations I enjoyed there, and shall always endeavor to keep in touch with it as a member of the association. I am so glad Mr. and Mrs. Weeks could go there. I remember having met them while I was at the Commons."

The article in another column by the new Head-Resident, Mr. Nathan H. Weeks, will be read with interest.

Playground Work at Hiram House, Cleveland, O.

BY GEO. A. BELLAMY, HEAD RESIDENT.

A valuable and successful feature of the work at Hiram House is the playground. In this district, as in all such districts, the street life educates with fatal precision. The loose life of the gangs and cliques allows all kinds of rowdiness. The jokes, the games, the tendency to ridicule and make light of everything, results in disrespect, lawlessness, cruelty and the development of the destructive spirit. It means a wrecked conscience, a shiftless laborer and an irresponsible citizen. The problem of substituting a constructive, responsible, law-abiding spirit for the destructive, irresponsible, lawless life of the streets is most pressing. The clubs, classes and industrial training furnish a good substitute, but only to a limited extent. To find the best and most effective remedy we must enter the play of the children. On the playground there are a few rules which are obeyed. Leaders of gangs are in responsible places, and all are given an opportunity to surpass in skill. The play time is filled with constructive games. Rowdiness and loose jokes are gone, while the struggle for victory inspires the whole group. The boys' pride makes them banish their lazy, shiftless feeling, and substitute an active energy, developing accuracy, precision, endurance, courage and many of the nobler virtues. The playground means better morals, better hearts, better bodies, fewer arrests, less stealing, gambling, and mischief. Our neighborhood policeman remarked the other day that the Hiram House playground was as good as ten policemen. Since it was opened he said he had not been called down once to drive the boys from the opposite corners, while formerly it was his daily task.

During vacation the grounds are open from 8:30 a. m. to 9:00 p. m. except during meal hours. On school days from 4:00 p. m. to 9:00 p. m. They are well lighted at night with electricity. There are three directors. A lady resident has the morning work, carrying on chiefly creative work. The children have not only had their usual playtime, but have also made from raffia hats, boxes and mats. They are now planning to make door-mats from corn husks—a very practical and original idea. Two men residents have charge of the afternoon and evening work. Field day contests are held every Friday night, and as much interest as possible is aroused in the group games. Each week an effort is made to give a concert. Dif-

ferent brass bands are requested to spend one evening with us during the summer. It is a happy picture to see the old folks listening to the music while the little children are frolicing—running and dancing—around. The spirit of cheer and pleasure manifested by the crowd is one of real inspiration.

In winter time, when the weather is favorable, the place is used for skating. Every day but one during last February found a most good natured crowd, averaging from 100 to 1,000 daily.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Mather, of Cleveland, have met all the expenses of this work. By the end of the year the ground, equipment, and directors will have cost about \$11,000, but it has been a good, paying investment. It is now used as a model for other play grounds in the city, and has resulted in the establishment of three under private control, and three under city control. As yet politics have not entered into this city activity. That the mayor might keep these from political influence, he requested the head residents of Goodrich House and Hiram House to appoint the directors.

The playgrounds in Cleveland have been so well started and are managed with such success that they are given an important place in our city equipment and are a real benefit in developing a higher expression of civic life.

Settlement Rats.

Ralph Waldo Emerson's apotheosis of the rat in the following poem will certainly appeal to all who have resided at the Old Commons, and perhaps to residents of some other settlements. The contention of at least one of the former group that rats have some rights that residents are bound to respect thus finds justification upon unexpectedly high authority.

LIMITS.

BY RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

Who knows this or that?
Hark in the wall to the rat;
Since the world was, he has gnawed;
Of his wisdom, of his fraud
What dost thou know?
In the wretched little beast
Is life and heart,
Child and parent,
Not without relation
To fruitful field and sun and moon.
What art thou? His wicked eye
Is cruel to thy cruelty.

The Fourth of July at Browning Hall.

From Report of First Year:—The unity of all who speak the English tongue as a great step to the eventual unity of mankind is sedulously advocated. The "Glorious Fourth" of July was commemorated by a great "Demonstration of Desire for the Unity of the English-speaking world"—the first of the kind it seems ever held in this country—at which Mr. W. T. Stead presided, and speeches were made by Miss Willard (United States), Rev. C. S. Pedley (Canada), and Rev. L. M. Isitt (Australia). Letters were read from the American Ambassador (then the Hon. Mr. Bayard) and Charge d' Affaires, and from the Imperial High Commissioner of Canada.

From Report of Second Year:—The International celebration of the 4th of July which was commenced in Browning Hall in 1895, set a precedent followed this year by the Rt. Hon. James Bryce, M. P., at the American banquet, and once more in Browning Hall, where Mr. W. T. Stead presided, and addresses expressive of a common desire for the unity of the English-speaking world were delivered by Sir Walter Besant, Dr. Simeon Gilbert of Chicago, Dr. Bentley (California), Dr. Duncan (Toronto), Hon. W. P. Reeves, Agent General for New Zealand, and the Bishop of Rockhampton (Queensland). A letter was read from Mr. Samuel Helm (Cape Colony) and a telegram from Miss Willard. Mrs. Lawrence Briant sang Russell Lowell's "The True Man's Fatherland" to music specially composed for the occasion, by Mr. Lawrence Briant. The meeting joined in singing Prof. Huntingdon's international anthem, "Two Empires by the Sea," to the music common both to American and British national anthems. The celebration was very widely reported, a lengthy account appearing in a Hindu newspaper.

From Report of Third Year:—The anniversary of American Independence falling on a Sunday, our annual "Demonstration of Desire for the Unity of the English-speaking world" took the place of the ordinary PSA. Mr. W. T. Stead again presided. The Hon. W. P. Reeves spoke on behalf of our colonies. The United States were represented by the Rev. Dr. Milburn, the blind chaplain of their Senate, whose prayer for peace after President Cleveland's bellicose message against Venezuela fell like the storm-stilling voice of the Christ upon the troubled waters. His rapt oration at the hall, in which he glorified the Christ as the One Hope of the world's peace, will probably

never be forgotten by those who heard it. At the evening service Miss Krout and Miss Brodlique presented on behalf of the Chicago Woman's Press League, portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, which Mr. Bryan accepted in the name of the Settlement. In these various ways the Settlement endeavors to promote that unity of nations and churches which is a principal feature of the Evangelic Kingdom of God.

On the 13th of June the Browning Garden was opened by Miss Hay, Col. John Hay attending and speaking in the warmest terms of the sympathy between United States and Great Britain.

From Report of Fourth Year:—The anniversary of American Independence was again duly honored. July 3rd was kept as Anglo-American Sunday, Mrs. Ormiston Chant speaking on the story of Cuban wrongs. The "annual Demonstration of Desire for the Unity of the English-speaking world" on the 4th was rendered jubilant by the news of the American naval triumph of the day before. The speakers were Henry George, Jun., (United States), Dr. Duncan (Canada), Arthur Clayden (New Zealand), and the Hon. Ananda M. Bose, president of the Sadharan Brahmo-Somaj (English-speaking India). Important letters were read from W. T. Stead and Justin McCarthy, both absent through ill health. This British celebration, derided as a "fad" four years ago, was now felt to touch on the supremely important international question of the hour.

From Report of Fifth Year:—The programme of British and American music which the band gave at the garden party (in Browning Garden) on the 4th of July formed, with the Warden's address at the PSA, our only celebration of English-speaking unity on Independence Day. (The Countess of Aberdeen, who promised to come, being detained.)

In 1900 the ill health of Charles Sheldon, who promised to speak at the hall on the 4th of July, caused the celebration to be no more than a selection of American and British airs by the band in Browning Garden.

In 1901 the Warden's absence through ill health prevented more than the same sort of musical celebration in the Garden.

Mr. F. Herbert Stead adds to the above report, which we requested him to send, the following personal note:

"25 Grosvenor Park, SE.

"July 25, 1901.

"We have been less careful to maintain the celebration in recent years because the pio-

neer work has been done and what we were mocked at for setting up six years ago has now become almost a general national festival. So far as I am aware there never was a British Minister or eminent public personage on the British side invited to your Ambassador's banquet on the Fourth, until the year after our meeting had set the precedent. Now the Fourth is widely an Anglo-American celebration from highest to lowest.

"I am delighted to see that you are building on the basis of common Christian citizenship a true Catholic fellowship.

"With cordial greetings, yours heartily,

"F. Herbert Stead."

Prof. Thaddeus P. Stevens of the Woman's College, Baltimore, is preparing a bibliography of settlement literature on hygiene, temperance, social purity and civic purity, for the use of social workers.

The following story, which is going the rounds of the English press, will be recognized as true "for substance of doctrine" by settlement workers, without criticism of the allegation as to the fact from which it is said to be based:

A little girl from the slums was invited with others to a charity dinner at a great house. In the course of the meal she startled her hostess by asking:

"Does your husband drink?"

"Why, no."

"How much coal do you burn? What is your husband's salary? Has he any bad habits?"

By this time the astonished hostess found breath to inquire how her little guest came to ask such strange questions.

"Well," was the innocent reply, "mother told me to behave like a lady, and when ladies call at our house they always ask mother those questions."

MARRIED.

HILL-ANDERSON—At Neighborhood House, Louisville, Kentucky, Aug. 15, by the Rev. Dr. Hemphill. Archibald A. Hill, Head Resident of the Settlement House, Tenth Ave. and Fiftieth St., New York City, and Miss Mary D. Anderson, Head Resident Neighborhood House, Louisville, Kentucky.

SWOPE-HILL—At Mackinaw, Mich., Aug. 20, Gerard Swope and Miss Mary D. Hill, recently of Hull House.

The Commons.

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Social Settlement Point of View.

GRAHAM TAYLOR, - - - - - Editor.

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EDITORIAL.

Final Issue of the Steel Workers' Strike.

The easy-going assumption is on its rounds again that the very existence of trades unionism, at least in the steel industry, depends upon the issue of the present strike. It is very wide of the mark which past experience has set for us to judge by. From what industry in which trades unionism has once become well entrenched has it ever been permanently banished? Strikes fail, they almost always do when the single issue on which they seek to justify themselves is not the immediate, concrete concern of every unionist in the trade. But unionism, as a matter of fact, has a way of rising, later if not sooner, into a new life out of the very ashes of such failures. Should not its persistence and steady development through what Prof. Alfred Marshall calls its "brilliant though checkered career," raise the question of its right to be and its legitimate function among its foes, as well as among all thoughtful observers of current life? Should it not occur to such to inquire, "What would rise in the place of trades unionism if its enemies succeeded in destroying it?"

There is but one answer given by experience. Wherever trades unionism weakens, at least at the larger centers of industry, the ever present and alert appeal of Radicalism receives immediate response in increased adherence to the ranks of either an extreme socialism or a dogged anarchism. Capital will surely have to reckon with these more formidable and less compromising forces if it succeeds in seriously impairing the force of the really conservative influence of trades unionism in the workers' world. Villari, in describing the downfall of Florence, accounts for the difficulty in organizing a new government in a way which should warn us against a too hasty judgment averse to the organization of labor. "The ancient trade associations or guilds, once the centers of industrial and political life, whose workshops had supplied the enormous wealth ex-

pended on long and difficult wars, and which had formed the Arena wherein artisans had been trained in politics by their struggles among themselves and learnt the art of giving good counsel and brave service to the State—all these ancient associations now existed only in name."

Anything that threatens the disruption of these great craft brotherhoods, despite all their class divisiveness and the frequent abuse of their great power, menaces one of the elemental forces upon which the hope of social unification and progress must depend. Back to the "good old times" when "every man did what was right in his own eyes," on both sides of the line of industrial cleavage, it is impossible to go. Surely Labor cannot be driven out of its right to associate the workers in united action for "collective bargaining," while Capital is forced by its own interest to combine in order to bargain collectively. Neither can afford to disband, not only because one is afraid of the other, but because in each the instinct of self-interest forbids. By their very existence both the Steel Trust and the Amalgamated Association proclaim the fact that co-operation is the life of their trade. For the trust to compel the members of the unions to compete with each other in the labor market is to deny the application to them of the very instinct of its own self preservation whereby competition has become to its investors the death of trade.

Wisconsin University's Settlement Fellowship

In maintaining for the past five years their social settlement fellowship at Chicago Commons, the students and faculty of the University of Michigan have set a type of service which other institutions are beginning to follow. In the last number of *The Commons* we printed the reports which the incumbents of the Harvard, Dartmouth and Amherst fellowships at South End House, Boston, gave of their first year's work. We are now happy to note that the University of Wisconsin has established at the Northwestern University settlement in Chicago an annual fellowship of three hundred dollars, which will be awarded by the department of Economics. The man or woman receiving the award will reside one year at this settlement to engage in its general activities and at the same time prosecute such original personal investigation as will be of academic grade and of practical worth.

In commenting editorially upon the significance of this movement, the *Chicago Tribune* says:

"It has long been felt that the colleges and universities situated in the country were unfortunate in being deprived of the opportunity to support social settlements. It would be unwise for a university at a distance from the city to attempt to establish a settlement of its own, but by uniting with some one that is already established the same results can be secured. The University of Wisconsin will have the benefit of the experience of the Northwestern Settlement Association, and it will have the benefit of the moral and financial support of the University of Wisconsin in general and in particular will derive considerable additional strength from its connection with the admirable department of economics, of which Professor Richard T. Ely is the head.

This idea of bringing surrounding colleges into contact with the social reform movements of Chicago is worthy of further development. If the other colleges near by were to take similar action the result would be a vast increase of strength and energy in the social settlements of the city. The University of Illinois, Knox, Beloit, Illinois Wesleyan, Purdue, De Pauw, the University of Indiana, the University of Michigan—all these institutions could take their fair share of settlement work by uniting with some of the settlements that are already in operation. They might choose to direct their attention to other cities—Detroit, perhaps, or Indianapolis—but the principle would be the same, and the same beneficent results would flow from their enterprise.

The Northwestern-Wisconsin alliance is indicative of the prosperity that at present reigns among the settlements of Chicago. Next winter ought to be the most successful in the history of social settlements in Chicago."

The success of the pioneer university fellowship experiment at Chicago Commons is developing a desire at the University of Michigan to establish or adopt a settlement of its own in Detroit, which being less than forty miles away from Ann Arbor, is well within manageable distance of the university.

Shall Public Charities be Partisan Spoils?

Among the many humiliations which the self-respecting citizens of Illinois have suffered at the rude hand of a succession of Governors, none is more mortifying and disheartening than the reasons for the resignation of Miss Julia C. Lathrop from the Board of Public Charities. For more than eight years, not only her leisure

but the best of her marked executive abilities and the untiring toil of her quietly energetic life, have been, with rare intelligence and rarer devotion, entirely at the service of the State. Of the responsibilities involved in this great public trust, which she has all along so self-exactly interpreted to herself, she thus reminds the Executive: "The control of the expenditure of \$2,500,000 yearly and of thousands of appointments would be a responsible task in any purely commercial undertaking. But when the money is to be spent and the people hired for the great function of humanely, wisely and economically caring for 10,000 sick and helpless human beings, it is certainly worthy of skilled and disinterested attention."

It is as marked an evidence of her almost indispensable value to the legitimate and necessary work of the Board, as it is of its ruthless subordination to mean little partisan personal ends by successive Executives, that she has served under no less than three administrations. With their partisan exploitations she firmly faces the Governor in these words: "Since my first appointment on this Board, rather more than eight years ago, there have been two administrations in this State, one of each political party. During all that period the institutions have been used for party ends, although the growth of political control has never been so apparent as now, when there is another change of administration without a change of party."

In view of the explicit provision of the law creating the Board, which guarantees the freedom of its members from political interference with their own acts or with the choice of their subordinates, she pertinently asks the Executive who presumes to dictate the selection of its secretary, "Why should the members of an unsalaried Board be asked to place their personal reputations in the keeping of any officer whom they have no voice in choosing?"

While this over-riding interference is the specific occasion of the resignation of both Dr. Emil Hirsch and Miss Lathrop, there is yet a deeper reason why she could no longer serve under such conditions. For all these years she has not only officially participated in the management of the greater institutions for the care of the defective classes, but has also personally visited each one of the ninety almshouses maintained by the widely scattered counties of the State. In this steadily prosecuted visitation she has not only come in to helpful, sympathetic contact with the keepers and managers of these county poor-houses, but also in to more or less confidential relations

with both their inmates and the family or friends of these unfortunates. There is, therefore, the protest of the heart underlying her words in the closing paragraphs of her letter of resignation: "The Board has no significance unless it serves as a safeguard and guarantee to the public that the institutions are well managed. On the assumption of this guarantee aged and that the patients are receiving proper friends of patients constantly appeal to me as a member of the Board. Upon the helpless patients and inmates comes the final weight of every unnecessary expense or extravagance—of every counterbalancing effort to economize unduly...I am not willing longer to appear to the public, and far less to the anxious friends of patients, to give an assurance which no members of such a Board, however far they may exceed me in capacity, can give under the present system."

It is nothing less than a tragedy that such chivalrous relations and such universally acknowledged efficiency in the service of the State should count for so little with the small man in whose hands such great interests have been entrusted. In strange contrast with his pettifogging partisanship, as well as with his grotesque play at gallantry in refusing to enter into controversy with Miss Lathrop, or make reply to her stinging letter of resignation, because "she is a lady," stand her own closing words: "The work of the Board has become a matter of the warmest personal interest to me, and I leave it with pronounced regret, and only under a conviction that it is my plain duty at this time to make such protest as I may against the continuance of a system which, from the Board of Charities to the last servant of the smallest institution, leaves no one free to do his task regardless of all save its faithful performance."

HELP THE GIRL TO SELF-HELP.

In faith and hope that \$150 will be forthcoming to give a year's schooling to the young girl rescued from the toils of her infamous old captor—now a prison convict—application has been made and accepted for her admission to the school which affords her the best opportunity. Surely among the many who were interested in the criminal prosecution and swift punishment of those long guilty of such infamy, enough will respond to this appeal to help the innocent child to a life-long self-help, and thus warrant this further venture of confidence in following up what was well begun.

Mid-Summer at Chicago Commons.

We have averaged fifteen in residence all summer, eight women and seven men. In addition, six have been in charge at Camp and two at the Glencoe Cottage, twenty-two in all, at work.

Summer life at the settlement, tho busy, is less strenuous than in winter. The groups are smaller. Individual contacts ripen into more intimate personal relationships, both within the settlement group and in the neighborhood. There is more time to cultivate the amenities and reciprocities of life. Out-of-door leisure brings the neighbors out from behind closed doors, in family and neighborly door-step or side-walk groups, wide open to acquaintanceship or fellowship. The summer affords a unique opportunity for service which no settlement can afford to lose.

INDOORS.

Indoor occasions, while fewer and smaller in attendance, are successfully maintained. Some of the clubs continue their regular meetings. The gymnasium has not been deserted. The bathing facilities, while far from being completed or in good working order, have been used as fully as was expected.

The religious occasions have been sustained without break, fully as well as those of a social or educational nature. The Tabernacle Sunday School has been well maintained in number and regularity of teachers and scholars. The Sunday services and weekly Fellowship meeting have weathered the extreme heat encouragingly.

A group of Armenians, averaging thirty or more, mostly men, meet for worship and religious fellowship at Chicago Commons every Sunday afternoon.

OUT-OF-DOORS.

The out-of-door occasions have the right of way. Every morning little groups of children gather to pass muster in person and clothing, to wash up, and get a clean bill of health before starting for their outing. Under the escort of a resident they soon are off to the railroad station, some for the Elgin camp, others for the Glencoe Cottage, still other groups for the suburbs or the friendly homes awaiting their arrival in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Indiana towns and villages. It is the girls' turn at Camp in August. Fifty of them at a time gather under the canvas and around the camp-fire for a fortnight. How much it

means, only we, who watch through the year the difference it makes in their lives, realize. The policy of Chicago Commons to confine itself to only so many outings as can be well managed and made the most of in each individual's case is amply justified. The two weeks of such continuous influence as is exerted by the natural and personal surroundings of the camp often seem to make more for character culture than a whole winter of once-a-week club work.

The picnic of the Tabernacle Church and Sunday School to the Pottawattomie Park, on the Great Western Railway, rallied 525 from the neighborhood, fully half of whom were adults. A delightfully cool, bright, long summer day was quietly and joyously passed under the trees and on the river, in family lunch parties and frolicsome games. Such a picnic takes on more important aspects when middle-aged people tell you that they have never been out of the city in all their lives, excepting a day at a time on some such excursion. The low charge of twenty-five cents paid all but \$15 of the expenses incurred.

For the Eighth Winter's Work of Chicago Commons.

TOOLS FOR MANUAL TRAINING—\$340 STILL LACKING.

Of the \$500 needed to supply our manual training equipment, and thus secure the gratuitous service and residence of a competent trainer, three friends have subscribed \$160. This leaves \$340 still to be provided in order to fulfill the condition upon which depends the establishment of this much needed department of work. While the work with the classes will be as rudimentary as the demand calls for, the normal training proposed will fit settlement workers and club leaders to teach in the several lines of work most practicable and valuable in similar classes anywhere. No further reaching investment of such a small sum can be made. It is an opportunity for service that ought to be bought up without delay.

FIFTY DOLLARS PER MONTH SUSTAINS THE WHOLE COOKING SCHOOL.

An experienced cooking-school teacher, at the sacrifice of one-half the salary offered her elsewhere, is to enter residence and service at Chicago Commons in the autumn. She is a graduate of Mrs. Rorer's school in Philadelphia, in which she also taught. Fifty dollars per month will lay the foundation of home-making and housekeeping in scores of eager young people. Boys, as well as girls, apply to be

taught the arts of living. Such prepossession of lives with good is not only the best way of overcoming evil, but the surest means of establishing home virtues and developing successful family life among the people.

OPENING THE FIFTH YEAR OF THE KINDERGARTEN TRAINING SCHOOL.

The Pestalozzi-Froebel Kindergarten Training School at Chicago Commons has assumed permanent proportions and new importance in the perspective of our settlement work. It was started primarily with the purpose of training the assistants for the Kindergarten at the Commons, and of sharing the settlement outlook and spirit with those who came to us to be trained for this fundamental social service.

Ever since it started, four years ago, it has not only been self-supporting, but has supported one of our kindergartens. The co-operation of the parents of the kindergarten children has been sufficient to provide the material used by them. Upon the achievement of this result, and the establishment of the school upon standards which have commanded not only the respect, but also the cordial fellowship of the older training schools in the city, Mrs. Bertha Hofer Hegner is gratefully congratulated by the residents and all the friends of Chicago Commons. For seven years she has wrought out with untiring energy, tactful skill, and the sweetest spirit her beautiful work with and for the children of our needy and cosmopolitan neighborhood. Skilled service, for which she trained at home and abroad, and which would have commanded its own price if offered to the highest bidder, she has lavished with motherly devotion and sacrifice upon the children of the poor. As the training school enters upon its fifth season's work, the prospects for attendance and quality of work were never better. The convenient and attractive quarters provided for the school in the new Chicago Commons building have greatly increased the facilities and efficiency of its work. This first educational venture in the enterprise of our settlement faith has already been followed by important developments and promises to lead to still wider pedagogical relationships.

WANTED—A position as Head Worker, Treasurer, or Secretary of a Social Settlement, Charity Organization, Children's Aid, or kindred organization, by an American aged thirty-nine years, educated, experienced, devoted. Best of references. Position in the East preferred. Address D. G., Chicago Commons, Chicago.

Last Lift on the New Building.

WILLIAMS RESIDENCE HALL TO BE FINISHED NEXT MONTH.

As we go to press the exterior of the Williams Residence Hall stands completed. The steam and gas fitters, and electricians have all their pipes and wires laid, the lathing and plastering have been in progress a fortnight, and the woodworkers only await the drying of the walls to put up the casings and make the finishing touches. So that by the middle of October the new home of Chicago Commons will be all ready for its house-warming.

\$10,000 NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE PLANT FREE OF DEBT.

The gift of the Williams family has made the rapid progress on the building possible. To fulfill the condition upon which their generous erection of the residence wing was made, and to leave the entire plant unencumbered, two things remain to be done before the close of the year: First, the \$8,000 given by the late John Marshall Williams to the building fund, which was expended on the Morgan St. wing and was afterwards added to the \$12,000 given by his children for the erection of the Residence Hall, must be replaced by the subscription of other friends. Second, at least \$2,000 additional is needed to cover supplemental contracts for fire escapes and necessary interior equipment in both wings. Even this does not provide for the elevator much needed by the residents, decoration of walls, the organ for the auditorium, and the Men's Club House, which it is hoped will be subsequently provided by single individual donations.

The contribution of \$10,000 before the close of the year will, however, practically complete this effective building equipment for the wide, varied, and far-reaching work awaiting it, not in its great neighborhood only, but also wherever its successful experiment will demonstrate the practicability of similar agencies adapted to differing surroundings.

NEW PLAYGROUNDS FOR THE NEW BUILDING.

While awaiting the Men's Club House, the lot adjoining the new building south on Morgan Street can be put to better use than to be rented for tenement purposes. The two small, frame houses on this lot are not nearly up to the standard which the settlement insists upon as fit for habitation. Their demolition will be both consistent with settlement principles and will be something of a protest against the increasing tendency in our district to make more money out of tenement house property in proportion as its condition is allowed to de-

teriorate, and helplessly poor or careless tenants can be crowded into it. Our use of even this little strip of land, 20 feet wide by 160 in length, as a playground for the children who have nowhere else to play than the dusty streets, will be appreciated by the neighborhood. Many will be grateful for the relief it will afford the street life in the increased quiet and gentleness which the organization of play, and the offer of playthings never fail to effect. More will be thankful for, some place to send their children where they will have a right to play.

The fifty dollars received for the salvage from the wreckage of the old houses will drain and enclose the lot. We need at least \$150 added to this sum with which to equip the playground with swings, see-saws, sand-piles and out-of-door games and gymnasium apparatus.

The investment of \$250 immediately in even this scanty concession to the liberty of child-life will yield ample returns. The children who come back from the freedom of camp-life will have at least something to take its place. The pathetic enjoyment which our little neighbors have had in playing on the builders' sand, and with the bricks, and around the lumber pile, during the erection of the building, will not be suddenly taken from them with the completion of the work. If any of our friends could realize with us what a God-send these building materials have been to scores of little children for nearly two years, they would not be slow to join us in providing them with this temporary place to play, and thereby hasten the provision by the Small Parks Commission of a permanent Public Play-Ground for our neighborhood.

TO SAVE OUR OLD KINDERGARTEN.

The continuance of the kindergarten in the neighborhood of the old Commons ought to be assured. The thoroughly competent leadership which has been volunteered should guarantee the balance of the support still needed to maintain the school. Miss Anna McClaury, formerly director of the Elm street Settlement kindergarten, and Miss Myrtle Wallace, who was trained in the Union Street school and was its director last year, have taken all the risks of their own support in offering to lead the branch work in the old neighborhood.

For rent, light, heat and service, \$100 per month remain to be assured. Who will step into this breach with us to save the neediest of our little ones from being deprived of their one privilege and highest hope?

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